

Howland Wood - Curatorial

British Museum (John Allan)

1914-1937

[Dept. of Coins + Medals

London, England]

June 1, 1914.

J. Allan Esq.

Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, England.

Dear Sir:-

Your monograph on the gold coin of Offa just at hand, and I want to thank you very much for the same.

I agree with your views on this subject, and think you have made a better case out of it than what Mr. Carlyon-Britton made of it.

I remain,

Very truly yours,

June 26, 1915.

Mr. J. Allen

Department of Coins & Medals,

British Museum,

London, W. C.,

England:--

Dear Mr. Allen:--

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the reprint from the last Numismatic Chronicle, of the monograph by the late Mr. Ramsden.

His sudden death is most deplorable and I miss him keenly as we have been in constant correspondence for years. In a short time I will send you several reprints on various subjects from our forth-coming volume of the American Journal of Numismatics.

I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

8/9/15

Dear Mr Wood,

I have to thank you
very much for the interesting
lot of articles received from
you this morning.

Suppose numismatic
activities in America are
not much affected by the
war. Indeed you ought
to be getting bargains as

you are presumably the
only buyers at present.
We have had no sales &
speak of last winter &
several large collections which
were to be dispersed are
being held up for more
favourable times.

See our friend Mr
Valentini occasionally.
He is busy collecting
material for future
parts of his book on
Indian coins.

Mr Ramsden's death is
a great loss to us. Do
you know anything about it
I never knew he was ill
till I saw the announcement
of his death in the 'Times'
& I have heard no details
from any one. Do you happen
to know if any one is
taking his place in putting
Chinese coins in the market
Hope you are well
Yours
J. Allan

Sept. 20, 1915.

John Allan Esq.,
Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, W. C.
England.

Dear Mr. Allan:-

Your letter came this morning on the same steamer as Archibald.

Numismatic activities over here are more or less affected by the war, as we are getting no foreign sale catalogues and you have sewed up Germany so tight that nothing has come over from there. Schulman of Holland has been over and is doing his best to increase his American business. Research work on all coins except those strictly American has been curtailed and it has been hard to pin our writers down to doing serious work, as the war news seems to still be the all absorbing topic. I have myself been surprised that no real bargains have been offered us. It may be just as well because our collectors, and especially the richer ones haven't the money to spend. Business conditions for a couple of years have not been especially good and the war has thrown it even more out of normal. Although there is a great activity in some lines, many men are out of work. Last winter there were between two hundred and fifty to three hundred thousand in New York alone, that were receiving charity, but countless millions of dollars has gone abroad in relief work. It is safe to say that nearly everybody in one form or another has contributed something towards this, despite the fact that there is more relief work needed in this country than before.

I write to Valentine now and then and I certainly admire his energy. I wish you would remember me to him when you see him.

Mr. Ramsden's death was a great surprise to me. Although for ten years I have been in constant correspondence with him, the first I heard of his death was from the post-script to his article in the Numismatic Chronicle. I had been wondering what had become of him for some little time as I had received no word from him since February, when I received a rather blue letter. Although I have written to his Brother-in-law, Jun Kobayagawa, I have received no reply and I should judge that the coin end of the business, especially the foreign side of it is going to be dropped. We have written over to see what is going to be done with his collection and a friend of mine who knew him very well, has written to see what disposal is going to be made of his manuscripts and a large collection of notes. As you most likely know his collection of Chinese is unsurpassed but his collection of round coins, though very

strong and including a number of unique pieces, is excelled by a number of collections. His Japanese coins with the exception of the tempo is not especially remarkable. He collected only copper.

I am preparing an article on Abyssinian Coins of Semelik. Do you know anything of a gold coin? I understand there is one but none of the records state the fact.

Very sincerely yours,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

12/10/15

Dear Mr Wood,

Many thanks for your
letter. I am afraid I have
never heard of a gold coin of
Menelik but it is unlikely
that none were struck. We
do have a set of silver coins
from the dollar down to one
penny copper coin. I cannot
think where we could get
information on such a point

if I can use best of mine
it has been forced to be
entirely self-supporting and
it looks as if all that is
taught of political economy
about credit & paper money
be ~~was~~ quite wrong. Still
none of us care to go
at the present rate.

I thought you would be
able to tell me something
about Ransden. I wrote to
his brother - or cousin - he
sends his efforts of his
article for the Chronicle as
his selector but he did

-possibly in Italy but I do
not happen to know any one there
like of to know. It might be
worth your while to send your
query to the Rivista Italiana
or Rassegna Mensurativa.

I am interested to have
your account of the state
of affairs in the U. S. The
popular idea here is that
you are all rapidly making
your fortunes but this seems
to be far from the truth.
From the economic point
of view it really looks as

not volunteer any information
about his death.

I shall be interested to know
what becomes of his collection.
He had an enormous collection of
all kinds of copper coins
altho' wth his ancient
Chinese formed a really
fine series.

I understand that one has
some very fine Chinese &
collection in the States.

Yr. Serv^t
J. Allan

Oct. 26, 1915.

James Allan. Esq.,
British Museum,
London, W. C2,
England.

Dear Mr. Allan:-

I have traced a gold 10 Tallari piece of Abyssinia to Mr. Frands collection in Chicago. He, however has been unable to let his hands on it. You undoubtedly have heard of Mr. Virgil F. Brand. He has far and above the largest collection in this country and probably one of the largest private collection in the world. His method of keeping it however is horrible. He has some sort of a Journal or Daily Entry Book and he keeps his coins in a large vaulted chamber under his office, in boxes and cabinets, as he gets them and not arranged according to countries consequently he might have a French coin next to an Italian, Italian or Roman pieces and so on, and unless he can find his entry in his Journal it makes it pretty nearly impossible for him to locate any piece unless he can remember where it is.

I wrote you as I did about the state of affairs here, and there seems to be much misapprehension about it in England. To judge from the space given in our papers to War contracts, one would think vast fortunes were being made here. Undoubtedly certain people are making big money but the country and the people as a whole, are not. A great many of the big Contractors are not making what they expected because the demand for certain materials, which is very scarce is almost impossible to get, has brought the prices up. The working men in these plants, through strikes and other demonstrations are undoubtedly getting more pay but workmen in other lines are not, and in some cases have no work at all. Last year New York City alone looked after about 300,000 people out of work, but things have improved decidedly since then and I doubt if the same situations will appear this year. The German economic situation is interesting and apparently, as you say, they look as though they were the best off, but it strikes me that if the bottom falls out they will fall the hardest, and the poor and middle class people will suffer the most.

I cannot tell you a word about Ramsden. Several of us have written but not an answer has come back. We are now trying through other channels. I cannot help but think that his death was mysterious. His last few letters to me were blue and pessimistic. You may know that his wife, a Japanese lady, a brother to Jun Kobayawawa, has been sick for sometime with some mental disorder. Two of his children are at school in England, or were. He has a brother or uncle in London whose initials I

do not know but the Firm name is Messrs. Paraden & Co., 85 Gracechurch St.,
London, E. C. If convenient to you I wish you would see if you can get any
information from this party. A Mr. Reilly of this City who has met Mr.
Paraden and who bought the Monroe collection, the latter you may remember
wrote a book on Japanese Coins, has also been very anxious to know of the
disposal of Paraden's coins. There are a few fine Chinese collection in
this country. The National Museum at Washington has the Glover collection,
the Field Museum in Chicago has a small but very fine collection, our
Society has also very strong one, in Salem the Essex Institute has Mr.
Robinson's Collection and Mr. Reilly has as good as any. I am enclosing
a circular announcing a publication a friend of mine has just issued.
I do think he has gone into a great deal of detail for the subject, never-
theless he has gotten out a very creditable piece of work.

I remain,

Very truly yours,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,

BRITISH MUSEUM.

LONDON: W.C.

9/11/15

Dear Mr Wood,

Many thanks for your letter of the 25th Oct.
I am glad to hear you have traced the gold
abyssinian piece and hope you can lay hands on the
I have heard of Mr Mand's collection which
I am told runs into hundreds of thousands of coins
but I had no idea it was such a muddle.
I am afraid you will not be able to find
out much more about ~~my~~ Mr Rawden's
mysterious death; I have tried his relatives
but they volunteered no information,
which rather aroused my suspicions as the
cause of his death was the first thing I
expected to be told. You will probably
come across some O.S. or European resident
in Yokohama who can tell you more.
I hope some are in the O.S. will be
able to try his collection of an ancient

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,

BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

coins which it would be a pity were dispersed.
I am afraid there is no one on this side likely
to be an offerer for a long time at least. I know
a few are seriously interested in Chinese coins
here.

There have been no important coin sales here
since the war started. Several big English
collections are awaiting a favourable season
to be dispersed.

The Germans cannot live for ever by 'taking in
one another's washing' though they would like
us to believe they had solved that celebrated
problem.

Yours Sincerely
Pallan

P.S. If you can send me a card of the gold (odollar)
aftermarket, I should be much obliged or have
never seen one.

December 13, 1915.

John Allan, Esq.,

Dept. Coins and Medals,

British Museum,

London, W. C.,

England.

Dear Mr. Allan:-

Your letter came sometime ago and I want to thank you very much for trying to find out something about Mr. Ramsden's death. Although Mr. Peilly and myself have written several letters to Javer, as yet we have not heard a word, though something definite, one way or the other ought to come to us pretty soon. None of us have been able to get a line as to his coins either. I understand that when the war is over, his estate's affairs will be settled.

Maurits Schulman has just been over here and has sold and bought a lot of coins. This is his second trip since the war began. As yet I have gotten nothing further from Prand and I do not expect to.

The only new things of Numismatic interest over here are the coins issued by the Mexican Constitutionalists and the various medals issued by the Germans for one cause or another, but chiefly without much of any cause.

As you may have realized ere this, this country is full of cranks and fools and Henry Ford and his ship of fools is no exception to the rule. Wishing him no harm, I would like to see a torpedo strike him amidships.

Wishing you the compliments of the season, I remain,

Very truly yours,

February 25, 1916.

H. Allan, Esq.,
Dept. of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London,
Eng.

Dear Sir:-

I am preparing a paper on the Coinage of Ethiopia. It is chiefly concerning the coins of Menelik. I am prefacing it with a description of the various things used in that country for barter, and I am describing a couple of the unedited coins of the Axumite Dynasty which are here in New York and then am taking up the coinage of the Emirs of Harrar. This latter section I am enclosing a copy of which I would like to have you look over and as it embraces about everything that I know of, I would like to get it as complete as possible. Do you think you could make any additions or suggestions?

I ~~was~~ ~~that~~ ~~enclosed~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~last~~ ~~copy~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~paper~~ ~~sent~~ ~~you~~ ~~the~~ ~~copy~~ ~~of~~ ~~my~~ ~~West~~ ~~Indian~~ ~~Monograph~~.
I am also enclosing a rubbing of a few silver talisman. These

are more pretentious than anything I have ever seen before. Can you tell me anything about this series; when they were made, what they were issued for and in what part of the country. In recent there seems to be a great many of them turn up in this country. For the most part they present the same general appearance, crudely cut from rough dies, flat in appearance and the depressions somewhat blackened or oxidized. Many are in imitation of the old square rupees, others in imitation of early British Indian rupees, still others carrying a number of personages on each side and this group that I am sending you rubbings of. The frequency in which these turn up during the past two or three years has made me wonder a great deal about them. As you may guess, our coin dealers, who are about the most ignorant set of mortals going, exploit these as rare and wonderful pieces.

I remain,

Very truly yours,

April 18th, 1918.

John Allen, Esq.,
Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, W. C. 1, England.

My dear Mr. Allen:-

I note you have been very busy for the past year or so with war work, and consequently have refrained from writing.

During the past year we have acquired about eighteen thousand Oriental coins, including a good representation of all localities and dynasties. Naturally certain parts are stronger than others. One of the collections that we received is exceptionally strong in Ancient coins, and I should judge comparing it with other public collections in Europe and India, it is on a par with any of them. I have roughly arranged all of the Mohammedan dynasties up to India, and am now working on that. Time has precluded as yet anything but a superficial arrangement.

Trusting you are well, I remain,

Yours very truly,

April 18th, 1918.

John Allen, Esq.,
Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, W. C. 1, England.

Dear Sir:-

I desire to propose the name of Mr. Robert James Hialitz, 995 Madison Avenue, New York, for Fellowship in The Royal Numismatic Society. I can warmly recommend Mr. Hialitz. He is a well known Architect in New York, a very good member of our Society and is on our Council.

Yours very truly,

Curator.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON : W.C.1.

10/3/20

Dear Mr Howland Wood,

Many thanks for your letter.
We are glad to hear there is a
prospect of your coming here
this summer and shall do all
we can to make your visit
pleasant and profitable.
You will be able to work
through our Oriental coin
at your leisure. The Indian

I never saw it but I believe
it contains many rare
Pathans & Suris.

Thanks for your kind offer to
bring me castles. I really do
not know what you have.
I should like to see your
'Kaivumars' which I think
you have - or is it 'Kikab'
at Sin Amar. Have you any
rare pictures with good
legends or any rare
early Indian coins?

I do not think you need

collection is very good. The
general Oriental collection is
hard to find as that in Paris or
Berlin, although we have a
much larger collection than
appears in the old Catalogue.
I hope Mr Wyman is all
right.

We have sent off to Mr
Noe his beta pouter carts and
must apologise for the delay.
I trust they will be of use to
him.

I am glad to hear you have
seen the Boissac collection.

bring me anything I know
as or going over an collection
you will be better able to
give me an idea what you have.
I am sorry to hear of Mr. L. L.
Miller's death. It's
only a week or two ago since
we wrote to him notifying him
of address.

We are sorry Mr. Newell is
not to appear here this
summer.

With kind regards
Yours truly

I Allan

P.S. Do you know this collector? It's
present in London offered at 25,000!!

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.1.

25/6/20

Dear Wyman,

Thank you for the notice of

your election to the R.S.

I think Wood & Lay is your

dues for you. He's off to

Holland now after a long
time here. May thank

he was which arrived
all right. From London

July 6th, 1920

J. Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

My dear Allan:

I have received this morning the notice of my election as a Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society. I am very much gratified at this. Your note says that you think Wood is paying my dues: will you kindly make certain of this for me? In case he has not done so, I will send a cheque immediately.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator

W/E

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CS-6852

November 5th, 1920.

John Allen, Esq.,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, W.C.1, England.

My dear Mr. Allen:-

It seems as if one hundred different things have prevented my writing you. I managed however to get a letter off to Mr. Hill awhile ago. I have been, as you may imagine, busy getting things in order and straightening out my notes and transactions done in Europe.

I received a letter a short while ago from R. H. Whitehead saying he was going to have a year's leave and might come through New York next year to look over the Burke coins as well as our own.

I also received a letter from Mr. Hebbert S. Job from Eastbourne, England, saying he was sending me a copy of his work on the "Coinage of the Mahdi and the Khalifa".

I am enclosing a photograph of our Parandukht coin as I could not remember whether you took an impression of it or not. I am also enclosing a photograph of two Tibetan medals, and under separate cover I am sending plaster casts of these together with two of the new Mexican 5 centavo pieces issued by the revolutionary forces in Jolisco. Do not bother to send me acknowledgments.

The Tibetan pieces may or may not be coins. If they are coins they weigh about quadruple tangkas. I can make out the inscription on one side which is the same as the Garje Phodung tangka. The reverse inscriptions I have not made out. Can you find anybody who can read Tibetan, and give me any help?

Yours very truly for the time being,

Curator.

December 2nd, 1920.

Mr. John Allan,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, E.C.1, England.

My dear Mr. Allan:-

Your communication came to hand the other day, and I would be very glad to double my subscription to the Royal Numismatic Society, and as I am so far off I think it best to send my cheque for Two Guineas.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

January 12, 1921

John Allen, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

My dear Mr. Allen:

I am sending you, under separate cover, three copies of our new publication in the small form. Please hand on a copy each to Mr. Robinson and Mr. Mattingley. I hope you three will be inspired to this sufficiently to have an uncontrollable desire to break into print in this format and send us over a copy.

Do not forget those casts of which I left wax impressions on your desk. I am reminding you of this as I am afraid they might disintegrate. Also, you were going to hurry to get me a cast of the gold coin struck by the Mahdi.

Has Mr. Whitehead turned up yet in England? If, and when, you see him, ask him if he is still contemplating coming to New York.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.1.

24/1/81

Dear Howland Wood,

I am glad to say that
Whitehead arrived in
December and has gone on
to his home in Cumberland.

He was talking enthusiastically
of his America trip & then
reminded me that perhaps
had seen a little since
he was home last. The

inquiries — on this point
rather damped his ardour
but I have not yet heard
that he has abandoned the
trip he is to be in London
in a few weeks ^{from} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
month.

Yours truly
J. Allan

February 24th, 1921

John Allan, Esq.

Dept. of Coins and Medals

British Museum, London, W.C.1

Dear Mr. Allan:

I am sending you, herewith, a half-penny of 1749 that was part of a large consignment sent to Boston in 1750. to pay for Boston's interest in the Louisburg Expedition. Some of these half-pennies went to Salem, Mass., to pay a Colonel Benjamin Pickman who furnished some of the supplies for this expedition. At least one bag of these remained intact in his barn until 1850, when they were divided by his son and a friend of his. The enclosed half-penny is one of this lot.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

Enc.

February 25th, 1921

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London, W.C.1

Dear Mr. Allan:

Many thanks for your several letters of recent date. I would have answered these before but I was away doing some research work in Boston for a month and have only recently returned.

I noted in the Boston papers that a Dudley Fay died on February 7th. If I remember rightly, he was a member of the Royal.

If you see Mr. Whitehead, tell him we trust that he can get to America and I will endeavor to make his stay here as economical as possible. I realize that ocean bills are high, and that his pound will not go as far as it used to do. I think he will see enough Indian coins here to interest him greatly. As I do not know his address in England, I cannot write to him direct.

Unfortunately, we cannot make our new publications any other size or shape than they now are. The money has given us to publish these with these restrictions. However Time may gradually alter some of the restrictions.

We are now showing at our Society the work of Mrs. Clare Sheridan who, you may know, is a cousin of Churchill and was the one who went to Russia and modelled some of the Soviet chiefs.

Many thanks for the translation of the Tibetan pieces; this helps me out a great deal. I suppose you have seen the coinage of the Mahdi and the Khalifa by H. S. Job. It is too bad that his illustrations are so poor. I am now

Fohn Allan, Esq.

Feb. 25th, 1921

wondering whether it is worth while to publish these as I had been intending. I have, however, a few varieties of which he did not know. We have here the gold tilla of Wali Sher Ali. I got this about a year ago with a number of other Bokhara and Central Asian gold coins that were on a necklace. I have none of the gold coins of Abdul Rahman; therefore, if they are to be had, you might get me one of each special variety. I do not care for dates. Let me know the amount, and I will send you a cheque.

Very truly yours,

ES/E

Curator

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.1.

7, 3/21

Dear Mr. Howard Wood.

Many thanks for your
letter. Enclose a gold
tillie of Abd al-Lahman. The
specimens are all right.
Please send me a cheque for
£1 payable to Lady Janette
St. John. If you know of any
more these who want me
there are still four others.
I am glad to hear you are well.

have the walisher all
thought it was very rare. Expect
whitehead will take it.
He is to be coming here in
April and not but quite
made up his mind about
going over to see you. He is
very keen to do so and I
expect will be making up his
mind soon.

Your friend
J. J. J.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.1.

Your cartons still in the
queue but I shall hurry
them up a bit.

Have you got a gold coin
(tilla) of Ghalisher Ali
of Kandahar - cf. Num.
Chron 1896 p. 321 no 51
gold. I had never seen one
till the other day when a
dog brought some home. He
got one. She wants to sell
the others. Have a look

her to keep one till I hear ^{from} you. She had also some
gold tillas of Abd al-Rahman.
We had none but expect
they are not uncommon. If

you want them, please let
me know - price £2 for the
sher - Ali + 15/- for the
abd al-Rahman, but I
dare say the owner would take
my offer. She is the widow
of an officer who was
in 1879.

Yours truly
J. Allan

March 19th, 1921

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

My dear Mr. Allan:

Your letter with the gold bill of Abu el-Husman came this morning, and I was very much pleased to get it. I am, herewith, enclosing my cheque for One Pound made out to Lady Janette St. John. If I hear of anyone else who desires one of these, I will let you know.

I hope Mr. Whitehead will be able to come here. I will be at the Museum alone this summer as Mr. Roe is going to Europe and Mr. Tyman is leaving us to live in France.

Very truly yours,

Curator

MS/s
Enc.

March 20th, 1921.

Mr. J. Allen,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, W. C. 1, England.

My dear Allen:-

Thank you very much for the bookplates safely received several days ago. I was greatly surprised and pleased that you should remember my interest in these things, and as a matter of fact the plate you sent me is a very welcome addition to my little collection as it is the only one I have by that particular engraver.

I am hoping very much to see you and the others at the British Museum during the summer. My wife and I sail for France on May 12th, intending to locate in Paris for a year or two. This is rather a wild venture on our part as we have no specific reason for going there, but decided that we had had enough of New York for the present and have chosen Paris as our next abiding place. I myself would have liked to have gone to London but my wife preferred Paris, and so we compromised on that City. However, I shall hope to be in London often, and shall certainly try to get there during the coming summer.

Please give my regards to Mattingly and Robinson, and believe me

Very sincerely yours,

Assistant to Curator.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

27

Dear Howard Wood,

Many thanks for the
cheque for £1 which I have
sent on to Lady St. John.
Whitehead will be here
all next month and will
have made up his mind
to expect about coming across
to see you. He was very
keen but the weather

in fares came rather as a
shock to him. We shall
expect to see Mr. Roe here
this summer. I am sorry
you are losing Mr. Wyman
and hope you are finding
a successor to him.

Yours
J. L. Allen

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.1.

8/4/81

Dear Howard Wood,

How are you off for Sumere
coins, including early Makam
a new type stamp etc.
former governor of Burma has
a very fine collection which
all illustrated by Phayre.
he already have a very fine
collection thanks to Phayre

and Sir Richard Temple. It
is a fine collection and
he broken up sold for
practically old metal. If you
are weak in there please
let me know and will
go in to the collection more
fully. It includes some of the
rare large lead pieces on
Thayer's last plate.

Yours truly
Allen

April 26th, 1921

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins and Medals
British Museum, London, W. 2. 1

My dear Allan:

Mr. Lee just here last Saturday and will doubtless see you in the course of a few weeks.

I am sending you herewith description and rubbings of the surmises, Arakan, and Pan going. It was just as easy to take rubbings as to refer to Egypt, with the variations that most of them had. We should be very glad to obtain any distinct varieties that we do not have. I will let you be the judge.

You will note that we have none of the smaller lead pieces and we are shy a few of the silver Arakan. I would, also, like some of the large lead pieces that are distinctly different from any we have, but do not care of course to go into minor varieties where the intent was to make them alike.

A few days ago a General Stroganovsky left with us a collection of coins which he had made in Persia. He was the Persian Field Marshall when the Russians had partial control over Persia, but since the war he has been out of a job and is now in this country. I should judge that there were at least ten thousand coins in his collection, including the ancient Persians through all the dynasties up to the present day. He must have a thousand old pieces; three or four thousand of the coins of Persia, and five or six hundred Sassanians. As he collected everything is right, there are a great number of duplicates. I am planning to acquire as many of the Sassanians as possible. The General wants to keep a collection of specifically Persian coins. Would the British Museum buy any, do you think? If so, I might later send over a selection and probably let you make your own price, more or less. I should, also, like to know what you would advise as to the best way of marketing these coins: I certainly could not sell all of them in this country.

I am enclosing rubbings of five rather nice pieces that I have especially noted although I have only looked over and a small part of them. I am hoping to buy them for the Society. Would you mind telling me what you think each of these five pieces is worth? The gold Mohammed bin Sam is a fairly heavy one. The Seljuke, with the two lions is new to me, as is also the little gold coin with horseman and bull, although we have two examples in silver.

John Allan, Esq.

April 23th, 1921

Remember me to Mr. Whitehead and ask him
if he received the long letter I wrote to him
to India or receipt of his letter to me. I
still trust that he will see his way clear to
come over to New York.

Very truly yours,

Curator

WJ/2

May 13th, 1931

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, S.C.1
London, England

Dear Mr. Allan:

Many thanks for the casts which arrived
the other day. I was glad to get these.

I heard from Mr. Whitehead the other day,
and he now thinks he may come over to New York;
I am looking forward to seeing him. I wish you
could come too sometime.

I am enclosing two Brazilian nickel coins
which you may not have.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E
Enc.

July 5th, 1921.

John Allan, Esq.,
Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum, London, W.C.1.

My dear Mr. Allan:-

On April 21st I wrote you a long letter concerning those Persian coins that you wrote about. As I am afraid that the letter got lost, below is quoted the principal part of it:

"I am sending you herewith description and rubbings of the Persian, Arabian and Pagan coins. It was just as easy to make rubbings as to refer to Phrygia, with the variations that most of them had. We should be very glad to obtain any distinct varieties that we do not have. I will let you be the judge.

"You will note that we have none of the smaller lead pieces, and we are shy a few of the silver Arabian. I would also like some of the large lead pieces that are distinctly different from any we have, but do not dare, of course, to go into minor varieties where the intent was to make them alike.

"A few days ago a General Staroselsky left with us a collection of coins which he had made in Persia. He was the Persian Field Marshal when the Russians had partial control over Persia, but since the war he has been out of a job and is now in this country. I should judge that there were at least ten thousand coins in his collection, including the ancient Persians through all the dynasties up to the present day. He must have a thousand gold pieces; three or four thousand of the Shahn of Persia, and five or six hundred Sassanian. As he collected everything in sight, there are a great number of duplicates. I am planning to acquire as many of the Sassanian as possible. The General wants to keep a collection of specifically Persian coins. Would the British Museum buy any, do you think? If so, I might later send over a selection and probably let you make your own price, more or less. I

should, also, like to know what you would advise as to the best way of marketing these coins; I certainly could not sell all of them in this country. "

We have enjoyed Mr. Whitcomb's visit very much. He leaves for home on Saturday.

Very truly yours,

Custer.

July 13th, 1921

John Allan, Esq.

Dept. of Coins & Medals

British Museum, London, W.C.

Dear Mr. Allan:

As I have not seen Mr. Whitehead since I sent him merrily on his way to the boat I presume he is on his way home. We certainly enjoyed having him here very much and I rather think he had a good time while with us.

The chief object of this letter is to enclose a silver dollar which our Government is once again minting after a lapse of 17 years. These are not minted for circulation but to store away in the Treasury so that silver certificates (or one of our forms of paper money) can be secured against them. During the war our Government sold to the English Government for use in India, many millions of these dollars, and these are consequently replacements.

With kind remembrances, I am

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

Enc.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

96/7/21

Dear Mr Howland Wood,

I am sorry not to
have replied about the Burmese
de coins but I have been
rightfully busy lately during the
holiday season. You seem
to have as good as no collection
of Burmese or one wants
There are one or two you
do not have but the
owner does not want to

break up the collection. I am
sorry I troubled you about it.

As to the Russian general
collection we shall be

glad to have anything you
don't want if we have it.

we should pay ~~up to~~ ^{up to} twice

the metal value on an average

if we took any number. of course

we would pay more for rarities
in particular series. Has the

owner any notion of their value.

I find it impossible to negotiate
with such collectors or a man

Yan Suil
? Allan

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

P.S. I have to thank you for
the 1921 dollar which has
just come in. Many thanks
we have already a specimen
from Mr. C. S. Gifford.
And it is a pig- to keep too.
Would you like me to return
it or exchange it for
something else to be given in
your name. Yr. truly
H. M. A.

August 9th, 1921

Mr. J. Allan

Department of Coins & Medals

British Museum, London, W.C.1

Dear Mr. Allan:

I am sorry in some ways about the Burmese coins but I realize that we have a fairly good line of these.

The Russian coins are just where they were when I wrote you first. I have got through the bulk of them and there are a great many interesting pieces, but what will be done with them I do not know. I am expecting the General back from California any time now. What I really want, is to get certain few for ourselves. He is quite strong in Persian mints, and has many interesting Bolshak, Mongol and the smaller dynasties both before and after that period.

Be sure that the two silver dollars are Philadelphia mints. The one I want you is without mintmark, therefore Philadelphia; possibly the one Gifford sent you is a San Francisco mint and has a small 'S' on it. Certainly sell my piece if it is a duplicate, or give it to anyone you think may do some good in return.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HS/1

October 6th, 1921

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, W.C.1

Dear Mr. Allan:

I am sending you casts of the two coins about which I have already talked with you. Kambour describes a specimen at length in his Contributions, Vienna, 1905, No.28, Pl.1,20; Lane Poole mentions in his Essays on "Some Private Collections of Mohammedan coins", under the essay J.M.C. Johnston Catalogue, last page, as being in Colonel H. Trotter's Cabinet, with the name of El.Muti'. Can a cast of this piece be obtained? Also, Lane Poole says "A somewhat similar coin, with the ox and name of Ja'far is in the B.M." Could I get a cast of this?

Thomas, in 1847, in "The Hindu Kings of Kabul", page 187 (J.R.A.S. IX) mentions one of these El Tukta-dir coins and says that there are several casts of similar coins in the B.M. Could you locate these casts? And could casts be made from them? Bayley in Num. Chron. 1882, also takes up these pieces.

Very truly yours,

Curator

31/10

October 11th, 1921

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins and Medals
British Museum, W.C.1

Dear Mr. Allan:

I am sending over to you one of those gold coins with the date 149. There were four of them in the lot all from the same dies, all worn, and appear to be somewhat clipped. The weights are 51, 51½ and 48½ grains. These are light, as you will see. Possibly they are counterfeits though I hate to think so. The date is written clearly enough.

I wish you would give me your best opinion on these after seeing the specimen. If you want it, make me any reasonable offer and I think I could get it for you.

I was hoping that the piece might be a coin of a Jeweller, but the fly in the ointment is that it is almost identical with the piece struck fifty years later.

I will see if I can get another dollar - or rather sixpence half-penny in place of the dollar you sent back.

I have noted carefully what you say concerning Whitwell's coins. Between you and me, I do not think that we could raise the money to buy these. People with money over here are not passing it out any more nowadays.

Very truly yours,

Curator

October 14th, 1921

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, W.C.1

My dear Sir,

I am enclosing herewith a Missouri half-dollar which please accept with my compliments.

I received yesterday a package of casts from you which I take to be duplicates of Whitehead's specimens which you were sending over in accordance with other specimens you have been sending to us.

Very truly yours,

Curator

H.A./2

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,

BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

1/ 11/21.

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

Many thanks for the Missouri half-dollar for the B.M. I am sending you casts of 3 Bull & horseman coins. The pierced one is I think quite genuine. I am doubtful of the second which is a very thin piece & the third is one of half a dozen obvious casts in the B.M.; the latter are all alike so I only send one of them. Your two casts seem to me to be like the number one I sent you. As to the gold coin, it can only be a bungled al-^mamun. You will notice he has gone wrong at the end of the word too. It is not very difficult to confuse 4 & 9. The ^ج4 is written larger than the other letters so that it might be taken for a ^{ali}1. If You write out ^{ا ب ج}ا ب ج & join the bottom stroke you get something very like ^{ا ب ج}ا ب ج & the same way if you break the connecting links in a 9 ^{get felt 4}as this engraver has done. It is impossible to get over the fact that the coin is exactly like any coin of Mamun.

I sent off some casts for Whitehead's booklet a while ago and have now a ^{fourth}fourth selection ready to send off with this. I think this will complete his illustrations. I think he sent the MSS. off last week.

With kind regards from all here

Tallan

CURRENT CATALOGUES RECEIVED

WEEK ENDING

MARCH 20, 1915.

AUCTION SALES

The American Art Association, New York.

March 25, 1915.

Ancient and modern coins
and medals.

Collection of M. A. F. Bierman.

Lots 368.

November 4th, 1911

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, W.C.1

Dear Mr. Allan:

I have just written a long letter to Mr. Whitehead and he will tell you all of the news.

You will see Mr. Newell in a short while as he leaves here on the 12th.

I am enclosing one of the 1911 dollars struck at San Francisco. You will note the small 's' under the wreath.

The casts of some of the early Indian coins from Mr. Whitehead came safely to hand.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E
ENC.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON : W.C.1.

19/11/21

Dear Mr Howland Wood.

Can you tell me the following
dates of changes in U.S. coinage.

In a little guide we are preparing.

1. Head of Liberty replaced

by seated figure ? 1839

restored 1858.

2. Issue of dollars stopped
silver ? 1904

3. Change of type of $\frac{1}{2}$ + $\frac{1}{4}$
at all times ? 1916

4. 5 cent nichel replas
Liberty half denio ? 1865

5. head of a nickel replas
Buffalo ^{renew} on do. ! 1910.

6. nickel but a mother in
large cent ! 1907.

to me very. But worse
in the New Year.

My friend
Lillian

November 22nd, 1921

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London, W.C.

Dear Mr. Allan:

The casts of the Bull and Horseman as well as the balance of the Austrians for Thimblehead have arrived. Many thanks for attending to these.

To what conclusions have you come regarding attributing these bull and horsemen with El Lakaair. So far I have not been satisfied with any of the ideas advanced but have come to no conclusions myself.

Your letter at hand returning the gold coin of al-Bun. As a matter of fact, I agree with you that it is a wrongly sealed date and should be 199. I was, however, hoping against hope. I really think the coin is a counterfeit of the period.

Kindly remember me to all, and tell Mr. Howell not to make too many discoveries.

Very sincerely yours,

Curator

La/s

December 17th, 1921

John Allan, Esq.
Dept of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London, W.C.1

Dear Mr. Allan:

Parts III and IV of the Chronicle at hand, and I beg to compliment all concerned on this volume. It is full of interest, variety and first class material. I read with interest the two articles on Mahammedan coins, and with especial interest your article on the Indian coins.

I am writing this chiefly to question you a little further on the Mahammedan coin you illustrate on Plate II, 6. I cannot restrain myself that this is a coin of Muhammad bin Tughlaq. Both the style and the inscription to my mind are like those of Ala-ud-din Khwarezmi. You will find a number of Ala-ud-din coins with simply Muhammad bin al Sultan.

We enjoyed reading very much Mr. Hill's review of our numismatic notes and monographs. As you have seen enough of us since these have come out, we will not have to comment further concerning our opinions.

I am sorry to learn from Mr. Newell that you have been under the weather. If you are going to be ill, be properly ill so that you can take a six months' vacation.

I notice that you are sending Frank C. Higgins' Chronicle here. He has not been a member of our Society for years and we never see him. His address is - 173 East 7th Street, Flatbush, Brooklyn, N.Y. Also, Arthur C. Wyman is now living in Paris and his address is - 24 Avenue de Maine, Paris (XV). Please cut out the Assistant Curator of our Society as he resigned last May.

Remember me to Mr. Whitcomb and tell him I am going to fire a few more questions at him shortly.

With the Compliments of the Season, I am

Very truly yours,

December 30th, 1921

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London, W.C.1

Dear Mr. Allan:

Your letter just at hand, and I think I can answer your questions better by enclosing a list of our coinage showing the duration of the different types, and you can therefore do as much as you want with it. I think this list answers all of your questions.

All dates, such as 1804-1816, are inclusive.

Very truly yours,

Curator

H.W./E

January 7th, 1922

John Allan, Esq.
Dept of Coins & Medals
British Museum, W.C.1

Dear Allan:

I am enclosing one of the new Peace dollars. These, I understand, were struck the last few days of 1921 - 1,006,473 pieces were struck. Pretty good work on the part of the Philadelphia mint. This is good additional thunder for the President of the R.I.S. to hurl at the Director of your Mint.

The piece was designed by Anthony de Francisci, a young artist here in New York, and he received the commission in a competition with other artists on, I think, a two weeks' notice.

In the list I sent you the other day, I gave you date of the Peace dollar as 1922 as I did not think it would be possible for the mint to get out any for 1921, therefore please make this correction.

Wishing you the compliments of the New Year,

Very truly yours,

W.A.
Enc.



BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.1.

11/1/22

Dear Mr Howland Wood,

Many thanks for the list
of U. S. A. coins which I
found most useful. I am
having it read for reference
here

You are quite right about the
coin - N. C. 1821. ~~III~~ S. I bought
to have spotted it. It came here
10 years ago in the Healy collection
as a coin of N. C. 1821. I am sure

I ought to have known better.

We already have a specimen in it
proper place. no. 616 h. ^{Vol. 1 of Cat.}

The leady metal too points at
are to Khwarizm.

As to myself. I am all right,
though I am not sure the
fortnight Newell was here &
he off with a chill. Thanks
for the address of Byrnes & Higgins.
Expect to see Whitehead next
week on his way to Berlin
with bird reports & best wishes
to the New Year.
Yours
J. Allan

February 14th, 1922.

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Allan:

I trust that you have received the Peace Dollar by this time which I sent over to you. If you have received any others and do not want to keep that one, will it and buy a dollar's worth of something for the Museum.

I am enclosing some Oriental coins which you may like to buy. They are a few pieces from that lot from Persia, which I thought might interest you. I wrote you some time ago that we are selling what we do not want for this year. These you desire, at your own prices and send me the money. I may send you over a few more later.

I received a letter from Whittemore the other day that he was on his way to Switzerland and then Berlin, and a letter from Russell stating that he has been busy in Italy and Sicily, and is now on his way to Greece and Constantinople.

With kind regards to those in the Coin room,

Very truly yours,

Curator

H/S
Encs.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

25/2/22

Dear Howard Esq.

I have not yet
acknowledged the Peace Dollar
but I must now acknowledge it
the packet of Oriental coins
that arrived this morning.
I am exchanging the dollar
with Mr. Lumsden for a 10 cent
piece of U.S. & other American
coins. Mr C. S. Lifford had
already sent us etc. He often

Seals is a query about decorations
- which usually stamps or
encloses some thing of interest.

He thinks he has discovered
Wynne's signature on the Nepal
medal. & the only way in which
I could definitely disprove it is
to find out who did engrave the
medal - so far without success.

The contrast between
the Waterloo medal is
sufficient.

Yours
J. Allen

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

3/3/22

Dear Howard Wood.

I am keeping one gold
piece for the man
sent for which we will pay
~~£3~~ £3 if this will suit you
I am returning the rest as
I do not know any one here
who would care for them.
I am glad to have the other
Arche on the other one coin.

~~affairs~~ of his (in gold). I wish
I knew the person's name on the
dinar of Madbil 320. It
is some thing like Muflik?
al-Yasufi - but I have not
traced him so far.

We are thinking of trying for the
Whitehead collection now that
our purchase grants are up on.
We never thought we should have
any money for acquisitions after
1921 but the Trades Committee
has really been quite nice about
the Museum. Yours
J. Allan

Leant 1030

Shack Rental Taking 1161

1162

Tv/hs 1163

✓ 1164

Wanji 1165

Edith Shack. magazine

Indigenous as Sept 11 1166

2 pm 11 1167

Indigenous Taking

NATIONAL STATE BANK OF ELIZABETH.

DEPOSITED BY

Elizabeth, N. J., _____ *191* _____

PLEASE LIST EACH CHECK SEPARATELY

Silver _____

Gold _____

Bills _____

CHECKS AS FOLLOWS:

SEE THAT ALL CHECKS AND DRAFTS ARE ENDORSED.

April 5th, 1922

J. Allan, Esq.

Dept. of Coins & Medals

British Museum, London, E.C.1

Dear Mr. Allan:

I am glad that you were able to pick out a number of coins that you wanted. I am enclosing a list here. Put your own price on those you want, and then send me a cheque for that plus the three pounds offered on the previous lot, which is perfectly satisfactory.

Like yourself, I have been unable to trace the Governor on the Ardebil coin of 320. We had two of them, and I kept one.

Where would you place those little coins with the crude bird on them? From the looks of it, he must have had over a hundred of them, all in one find. Also, what do you make out of the Persian mint on a blue first object?

Howell wrote me that at last you were trying for the Whitehead collection. Naturally, we would be disappointed if we did not get it, but we feel here that the S.F. should have first chance on English formed collections.

I am, also, enclosing the two varieties of the Alabama Centennial dollar which if you have already feel at liberty to exchange for something else. They were issued at one dollar each, so you should get at least two dollars' worth of things in return.

Very sincerely yours,

M/V
Encs.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

1/5/22

Dear Howard Wood,

Many thanks for your
letter of the 5th April which I
got on my return here. We will
give £1 for the nine Persian
coins you will receive a
cheque for £4 for the lot is
about a fortnight.

We put the whole
collection & Jewells & the

duplicate Vactrian. I am
preparing a list of the duplicate
Mammals for him - a year
rather - but I do not
know that you will want
many of them.

We could not consider the
purchase till the Jeddah
Committee report: fortunately
they were very nice about the
Museum.

Yours truly
J. Allen

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON, W.C.1.



23/1/22

Dear Hawland Wood,

I enclose a list of the
^{Muhamedan}
gold coins from the Whitehead
collection which we do not
want. Mr Newell said we
were to send it to you. The
price for the lot is £100 but
let us know which ones you
want in case we can arrange
to break them up. Y^r friend
D. H. C.

Gold Patans.

Ala al-Din Muhammad Dehli 704 A.H. I.M.C. no.192.
do. do. 713 A.H. I.M.C. no.197.
Mubarak Shah Dar al-Khilafat 719 A.H. I.M.C. 243.
Ghiyath al-Din Tughlak Dehli 721 A.H. I.M.C. 274.
do. do. 724 A.H. do. 275.
Muhammad b. Tughlak Dehli 727 A.H. do. 304.
do. do. 734 A.H. do. 311.
do. do. 727 A.H. do. 306.
do. Deogir 727 A.H. do. 307
do. Dehli 736 A.H. do. 312.
do. I.M.C. 320
do. Dar al-Islam 727 do. 302.
Ghiyath al- Din Mahmud, pretender 752 A.H. I.M.C. 408.
Firoz Shah Tughlak. I.M.C. no.410.
Firoz Shah Tughlak. I.M.C. 407.
do. I.M.C. 413 yr. 789.
Muhammad IV I.M.C. 487
Mahmud II I.M.C. 507

Gold Moghuls.

Akbar. Miharabi muhr Agra 981.
" Lahore : muhr square 988
" Lahore muhr round 971
Jahangir : Bacchanalian : Ajmir 1023 : 9. B.M.C. 319
" Zodiacal : Leo. Agra 1029
" " Pisces Agra 1028 : 13.
" Lahore : 1015. 1.

Shah Jahan. Akbarabad 1045. 9.

Aurangzib. Shahjahanabad 1070 : 3.

Jahandar Burhanpur yr. 1.

Muhammad: Imtiyazgarh

" Sind

Shah Jahan III : Mahendrapur 1174 : 1.

Shah Jahan III : Ahmadnagar 1173 : 1.

Alam II. Bahahurpatan : 119 : 20.

Muhammad Ibrahim. Shahjahanabad : yr. 1.

Gold Durrani.

Afshar Shah Durrani. Shahjahanabad 1171. 11

Shah Shuja. Rikab : 1219

Nural-Din : Kashmir : double muhr 1225 : 2.

Kidara Kushana : base gold (3)

May 31st, 1922

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
- British Museum
London, W.C.1 England

Dear Mr. Allan:

I have been postponing writing to you as I thought any day I would hear again from you with the cheque for the coins sent you.

I think I have already written congratulating you on getting the Whitehead collection.

I am planning next week to go to the hospital for an operation and will be away most of the summer.

Enclosed you will find a token which you may not have; it is used to pay the toll of the Galata Bridge in Constantinople.

Very truly yours,

Curator

Yr/
Enc.

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, W.C.1

Dear Mr. Allan:

Just after I mailed my letter to you yesterday, I received the cheque for Four Pounds (£4.0.0.) for the coins you bought. Many thanks for this.

I will try to get off to you another letter with regard to the British coins before I go to the hospital. In the meantime, I am rushed to death!

Very truly yours,

September 19th, 1921

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Allan:

This is just a friendly letter without any special import to say that I am once in harness and feeling fine. There are, however, one thousand, four hundred and sixteen loose ends to pick up, and I have not yet wholly settled down nor know where I am at!

Mr. Noe sailed today for Greece to study, although he is not feeling quite so well about it since we heard of the death of M. Svoronos.

Nothing of great importance has come in to us this summer - not sufficient, at least, to disrupt the numismatic world. Dr. Rick, of Jotha, is over here just now, attending a family re-union. As I understand it, most of the Rick family have picked the America in which to live.

Are you going to let us have the gold Shikharbi coin of Akbar? And, also, if you have a duplicate Afghan coin with the motto "The world is carrion, and the sovereigns thereof are dogs", I would like to have it.

I have been spending most of our spare money on Persian coins lately and have obtained some wonderful pieces.

Please remember me to Messrs. Will, Robinson and Mattingley.

Very truly yours,

Curator

January 26th, 1923

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Allan:

It seems a long time since I heard from you, and I am wondering whether you have been so busy getting the Whitbread Collection into shape that you have not had the time to think of anything else.

I am enclosing one of the cents made in 1922 at the Denver Mint. 7,130,000 of these were struck. This is the first year since 1815 that no cents have been struck at the Philadelphia Mint; and it is the only year from that date, I think, that all other denominations of coinage have not been struck in this country. 1922 saw only 20-dollar gold pieces, silver dollars and the one-cent pieces.

I am also enclosing casts of three gold dinars which recently came from Aden. I am bothered with the names on these pieces. I cannot locate the Mahommeds around the year 103, although there are Egyptian coins about that date with this Governor's name. Can you help me out? Also, can you make out the name on the other coin? I suppose it, too, is a Governor's name.

Please remember me to Messrs. Hill, Robinson and Hittingley.

Very truly yours,

Curator

FW/E

March 15th, 1924

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Allan:

It gives me great pleasure to recommend
Mr. Ferriss F. Merritt, 25 West 43rd Street,
New York, to membership in the Royal Numismatic
Society. In recent years he has taken great
interest in our organization and desires to be
affiliated with several of the foreign Societies.

Very truly yours,

Curator

April 22nd, 1924

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Allan:

Is there any way of knowing the Maria Theresa dollar made in England to pay troops in the Abyssinian campaign against Theodore? If so, will you help me out? I noticed in one of our Council Reports, dated 1918, this statement: "In 1916, the Sheik of the Independent Arab parts of Mada and Ghisban introduced his own coinage which are theoretically worth two annas each". Do you know anything about these coins?

Trusting you are well and not too busy nowadays,

Very truly yours,

Curator

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C. 1.

6/5/24

Dear Howland Wood,

Many thanks for your
letter proposing the return of the
R.N.S. of April 12 with the
money about the Maria Theresia
dollars. There is no special
mark on the restrikes but they
look like restrikes and the
majority of those one ~~th~~ sees
are restrikes. They were -

not struck in England but
in Vienna. They have been
restruck there from time to
time - not only for the Abyssinian
war when we put a large contingent.
They have been and still are the
standard currency of both sides
of the Red Sea & are continually
exported for Mauritania for that

purpose (see Halke: Handwörterbuch
der Münzkunde p. 190 foot of second column)
I shall try to run down the
other reference. It is probably
from the Admiralty Handbook

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON, W.C.1.



of Warwick (no that was published
in 1915) which contains a lot
of information about ^{modern} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
currents.

Enclose a rough list of the
(late W.E. R. Campbell's) papers,
for which his widow wants £300.
It is a very fine & complete
collection. If you know any
one interested would you let

we know. It is a nice
chance to get a representative
collection.

We have a few good
duplicates from the Whitehead
collection. Which you wanted
the miniature plates. You
can have it for £~~10~~¹⁰, if you
like. There will be a bit of
silver but I have not got
them listed yet.

Yours
J. Allen

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C. 1.

14/5/24

Dear Howard Wood,

Here is a list of
Mrs Campbell's gold bangles
a. If you want any or know
any one who wants any would you
let me know. Expect you
could get them cheaper if you
took any number.

Phil is in in a messy home
at present Larry his prostate

Head removed. He is getting
on well however but will
be off for some time.

Yours
Lillian

May 21st, 1924

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Allan:

Mr. Merritt, whom I proposed as a member of the R.N.S., is now on his honeymoon in Europe and I trust will drop in to see you.

Many thanks for putting me straight on the Maria Theresa dollars coined for England. I had gotten into my head that they were made in England, and were not the regular commercial transaction with the Austrian mint.

Mr. Newell is looking over the list of Gupta coins, and I think you will hear from him.

I am enclosing, herewith, a cheque for Ten Pounds for Whitehead's Mahrabi coin. When you get around to his silver, please let me know if there is anything especially interesting.

I am expecting to be at my office only one day a week during the summer, and am employing a good deal of my time getting my new house in order in the country.

With kind regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

Curator

Enc. Ten Pound cheque

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C. 1.

4/6/24

Dear Howland Wood.

Many thanks for your
letter of May 21st with cheque for
£10. I shall send on the coin in
a fortnight as the sale will
have to be approved at the
Trustees' meeting on the 14th.
I shall get a list made of the
silver and send it on to you
in time.

I am ~~sending~~ enclosing you

a coin you will like to have
It's a mahr or tola of the ¹⁹¹⁸ 53rd
new Lhasa mint of the ¹⁸⁷⁴ 53rd
of the fifth cycle which I got
from an official of the mint
over here by the new machine.
He would only part with the four
he had & ~~only~~ wanted me but I
thought I could work off one on you
at £2-10/- which is not clear,
I think: I may have another to/one
if you know of any one who would
like it if Galtcliffe & Talbot & others
do not take it.

Coin seen very scarce especially
Arab. I never see any.

Hope you get your move over
easy. This is making good progress.
Yours
J. Allan

June 25th, 1924

Mr. John Allan
British Museum
London, England

Dear Mr. Allan:

I am very glad to get the little Tibetan gold coin and I am enclosing, herewith, my cheque for £2.10.0. I am looking forward to receiving the gold Mibrabi piece.

I have written to Mr. John W. Garrett with regard to the possibility of getting your duplicate Tibetan coin. As he expects to be in London before long, he may either write or call in to see you.

We have not seen many Arabic coins floating around in the trade. The few we have acquired have come from collections.

I am glad to know that Hill is getting along well. I am planning to take a short motor trip in a couple of weeks.

Very truly yours,

Curator

Enc.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON, W.C. 1.



1/4/24

Dear Howard Wood,

I enclose Whitehead's
Akbar miniature. Hope it
reaches you all right.
Send you yet the Tibetan
tala all right.

Yours
J. J. J.

P.S. This is not a good person
to be sent to the country.

Will be glad to hear from you in the future
in writing if possible
DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,

BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON, W.C.1.



5/4/24

Dear Howard Wood,

Many thanks for

your cheque of £2-10/- for

the Tibetan coin. I am

sorry there is not one left

for Mr. Farrett, but I will

try to get another if we

can get it from the owner

when we get it.

Lhasa.

Sent off the Kiriabi
Akbar.

Is there any chance of
you wanting this Campbell;
pictos or the Patra
Museum seems to be after
them now but would like
to know if she is free to
negotiate with them or whether
you might still want them.
They are at the price of a 1/2 lb.
pure coin now a day.

Yours
J. H. M.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C. 1.

19/4/24

Dear Harold Wood,

Can you tell me any
more about a $\frac{1}{2}$ Spanish dollar
surhayed P.B. + Nawelle
Alean et.. Reminiscence Inf
1921. no 1373: That one
by it is the other
day. It looks me to
me earlier than Duffield

Suggests must be rare,
If the *Arg* is at all valuable,
the owner wants to sell it.

I have not seen it before. The
eagle seems to have the American
shield as I meant so that it
may be all $\times 18^4$ cent after
all. - if so of the French
name!

Yours
G. L. Latham

August 7th, 1924,

J. Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Allan:

Two or three of your letters were forwarded to me while on vacation.

The Mahrabi gold coins arrived safely. Many thanks for sending it. I think I have already acknowledged the receipt of the Tibetan coin - that is, also, safely here.

We have no money to buy any of Mrs. Campbell's coins. I turned that list over to Newell, and you can do whatever you wish with him.

The cut quarter of a Spanish dollar has already been attributed to Purch-Bain and Company of New Orleans. They issued a token in the Thirties. I have always thought that this piece in silver was issued by them between 1810 and 1830. I am writing the Louisiana Historical Society to find out what they know about it. It is the only instance, to my knowledge, of a cut and counterstamped piece issued in the United States. They are scarce, and sell anywhere from five dollars to fifteen dollars. For all I know, they may be worth considerably more now. The word "New Orleans" is French, and is not surprising for the French language has tenaciously held on there. In fact, some speak French to this day, and many signs are still in that language. Also, the law of Louisiana is the Roman law; all the rest of the country is English law.

I trust Hill is now back on the job. Please remember me to him when you see him or write him.

Very truly yours,

Curator

October 14th, 1924

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Allan:

Many thanks for the reprint of the Indian coins acquired by the B.M.

I have been taking a vacation this summer, and am now back on the job immersed in an exhibition of modern foreign medals. In between times (which is not often) I am working over an immense accumulation of Indian copper coins. As a rule, the duplicates are not of much value.

I am very sorry indeed to hear of Hill's troubles; he certainly has had his share.

Very truly yours,

Curator

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

19/4/24

Dear General Wood,

Very soon I have
to be used. They are
family carvers used by the
Chinese carvers in Burma
the Malay States about
1891-1892 is collected
Ben. They are given me by
Sir Richard Temple to me

to any one else / towar + then.

If any one to you please
acknowledge to Sir Richard
Temple, Room 53, India Office,
London S.W.1. That's all

about them.

Bill is just back from a
month in Italy and looks
very well again. I'm glad

to say. Yours
Jama

11 pieces

December 1st, 1924

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Allan:

The package with the Burmese gambling tokens
at hand, and I have none of them so am very glad to
have these. I shall be glad to write at once to Sir
Richard Temple acknowledging the donation.

Many thanks for remembering us here, and please
convey my best regards to Mr. Hill.

Very truly yours,

Curator

June 5, 1925

John Allan, Esq.
Department of Coins and Medals
British Museum
London, England

Dear Sir:

The casts of Burmese, Siamese and other coins for Mr. Wayte Raymond came to hand yesterday. I expect he will be back in this country shortly.

I am enclosing a rubbing of an Afghan gold coin struck by a parently Aman Allah. I cannot find any mention of this person that at all corresponds to the date of this coin. Do you know anything about this coin or this ruler?

I am also enclosing a little lead trial piece showing a bust of Shakespeare. It comes in a set of some of our naval heroes and politicians and consequently I think it may be made in this country. As I am working on that supposition, I thought possible the British Museum may not have it.

Miss Earle who has been with us for over five years and looks after our correspondence and helps edit and proof-read all of our publications, has just gone home to England for a two months rest. She will be in London off and on and I asked her to drop into the coin room and get acquainted as she knows well through correspondence all of your staff.

I expect Newell back this afternoon, Mrs. Brett next week, and two or three others of our members who are in Europe will be back shortly.

With kind regards to all of your colleagues, I am

Very sincerely

HW C

Curator

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

19/6/25

Dear Huxley Wood.

Many thanks for the
Shahjahan medallion which we
do not appear to have.

I do not know what to make
of the Afghan coin. ~~But~~ I
suppose it must be the present
Amir with the date wrong.
as the other have 1298 A.H.
at the beginning of the reign
of the late Rahman

and the coin may have been struck
by one of his rivals at that time.

I am afraid however that the
types are ~~too modern~~ for that
& are just those of the present
Muhammad. It looks little
struck than any of his coins but

see also

Your friend
J. Allan

September 19th, 1925

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Allan:

Will you ask one of your confrères what he knows about the so-called Columbia farthings? When and why they were made - as presumably they are of English manufacture. They are not uncommon in this country, so the presumption is that many were sent over here. I am enclosing rubbings of some of the chief types. The heads look to me like portraits, and I am wondering if any of them can be identified. The last one, not bearing the word Columbia, is undoubtedly the portrait of Wellington. In appearance, size, etc., it apparently belongs to this series.

Very truly yours,

Curator

Enc.

October 22nd, 1925

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Allan:

Can you tell me what is the customary charge
for making plaster casts of coins - especially with
regard to the charge in connection when they are made
for auction catalogues, etc.? Also, would the
charge include both sides of the coin, or is each
side charged for separately?

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Curator

February 25th, 1926

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Allan:

I regret to inform you that on Friday last,
February 19th, Mr. Albert R. Frey, a member of
the Royal Numismatic Society, passed away.

Very truly yours,

Curator

March 16th, 1926

Mr. John Allan
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Allan:

I am enclosing, herewith, a Persian coin of Ibrahim struck at Tiflis in 1182. It has a new couplet which I am unable to read properly. Do you think that you could get it worked out for me? If you can the coin is yours, as I have two or three of them just alike.

Very truly yours,

Enc.

Curator

June 30th, 1926

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Allan:

Did you ever receive my letter of March 18th enclosing a Persian coin of Ibrahim, struck at Tiflis in 1102, bearing on it a new couplet?

I am enclosing, herewith, a series of interesting coins - presumably, all for the Mongol Ghazan Mahmud. The first three - those of Tiflis, are new and bear new titles.

The Jajereh coin is interesting as having Padashah Jahan, and especially with something new in numismatics - Allah Ali, God Above Everything.

The third set of coins - the Kashan pieces, I am frankly puzzled about. I can make neither head or tail of the first word on the third line. Could it be possibly a bad spelling of Ghazan? The date 706 is against its being Ghazan, unless it is a posthumous coin.

The fourth group - the copper coin of Tabriz, has on it the same word.

I would like to have your opinion with regard to these.

I am just leaving for a month's vacation, and I trust that you will, too, have an enjoyable summer.

Very truly yours,

Curator

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

28/7/26

Dear Gaulard Wood,

Your letter of June 30
reminds me that a new
annexed game of Kar. 16. I
have always hoped to solve the
puzzle there is but have now
done so completely. I hope
to do so some time soon
the case -

✓
The other coins seem all of
Sheran Mahmud but it's
uncertain base & but tells
not one of which is a
Kangul inscription. I shall
write in more detail later
or I am just clearing up before
going away. Hope you
are well & have had a
good holiday.

Yours
J. Allan

March 11, 1927

Mr. John Allan,
c/o Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, England

Dear Sir:

Mr. C. S. Gifford has recommended to you
Mr. Sheard Pond for membership in the Royal
Numismatic Society. I am personally acquainted
with Mr. Pond and I warmly second his proposal
for membership.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:ME

May 16, 1927

John Allan, Esq.,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Allan:

Of late I have been putting in quite a lot of work on my old love, the bull and horseman coins. I take this subject up by fits and starts as I get time. If I keep on the way I am doing lately, I am afraid I am going to cause you some bother, but then you always have the right to get back at me whenever you want anything.

Could you send me casts of the following Gajnavi coins:-

535 k
535 l.m. The best one
542)
542 a) If the same the best one.
542 d
542 f
548 q Also I think you have an uncatalogued
type of Ferokkzad
572 p
580 s
587 d

I have never been satisfied with S.L.P.'s assignment (B.M.Cat. Dehli Introduction XXX) of Thomas' coin #7 of Khusru Malik. It strikes me that this should be assigned to Ghyatheddin Mohammed bin Sam the Ghorî. It is presumably similar to Rodgers J.A.S.B. LXIII 1894 #8. The inscription is the same except one has the word Malik and the other Shâtan. What is your opinion? I wish you could send me a cast of this

Mr. John Allan

- 2 -

coin. In connection with this see Thomas Ghazni First Supplement, page 377 (111).

I am also enclosing a rubbing of a coin which is fairly clearly Mohammed. This is similar to Bayley 21. The fabric, general looks and reverse certainly make it a Ghaznavi coin. By any chance has the B. M. one of these? If so, could I have a cast?

Has the B. M. got a gold piece of Mohammed Bin Sam with a horseman on one side? I know there is one in the Delhi Museum. See I. Brown - in his little book on Indian coins he mentions bull and horseman coins struck by Amritapala of Budayan. I have been unable to locate these coins and Brown, himself, cannot remember where he got his authority. Can you help me out here?

Has the B. M. got a bull and horseman coins of Balban. One of these was mentioned by Rodgers. I am desirous of getting a casting of one of these.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MB

EDWARD T. NEWELL
PRESIDENT

SYDNEY P. NOE
SECRETARY

CABLE ADDRESS:
"NUMISMA" NEW YORK



HARROLD E. GILLINGHAM
TREASURER

HOWLAND WOOD
CURATOR

TELEPHONE:
WADSWORTH 7735

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
BROADWAY BETWEEN 155TH
AND 156TH STREETS

NEW YORK 20th May, 1929

Mr. John Allan,
Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum

My dear Allen:

Among your Gandhara or Ohind coins you have several fine examples of the earlier Spalapati coins. Some of these I know came from Cunningham. I have been trying to work out a sequence in these, but lack good examples of the earlier specimens. Could you dig out a few of your best specimens and make the casts?

These earlier specimens that I want, show the horseman wearing a turban and his clothing pretty well modelled. There are, as far as I know, six with the long weird inscription. Cunningham's No. 7 is a perfect beauty. I am inclined to think that if we could find the earliest specimen, we would find a falcon in the rider's left hand. I think I have worked out the puzzling mark over the horse's head. It is not a symbol but the rider's hand touching a four-pointed star or ornament. The engravers very shortly after lost sight of what the original engravers intended and made several confused strokes and symbols..

Also, could I have a cast of your best Khamarayaka coin that shows the symbol above the horse's head, so that it really looks like adl. And could I have a cast of the best Bhima in Cunningham's specimens.

Very truly yours,

Curator

June 15, 1927

Mr. J. Allen,
British Museum,
London, W.C.1, England

Dear Sir:

A shortwhile ago the Royal Numismatic Society sent me a circular concerning back numbers of the "Numismatic Chronicle." We could use the following here for various purposes and if you still have any stock, I would like to have you send as follows:-

1879, IV)	
1881, III and IV)	
1883, I and II)	
1884, II)	
1885, I and II)	at 1 shilling
1892, I)	
1894, III)	
1896, I and II)	
1897, II and IV)	

1912, I (2S 6d)

1909, IV (36) (2S 6d)

Let me know what the postage and carriage will be and I will send you a check.

I trust that you are by this time back in harness and while I am writing to you, I am taking advantage by sending you a couple of more questions. I have just got hold of Moher Azam Shah with what strikes me as a new mint. At any rate, I have not been able to locate it. Do you know it? Also, I am enclosing a rubbing of a Princess Charlotte medal that is new to me. Can you tell me the reason for the five Integers on the back?

Very truly yours,

Mr. Noe:

I would be glad to have
you order for me, if you will,
the following numbers of the
Numismatic Chronicle:

1879, IV

1881, III and IV

1883, I and II

1884, II

1885, I and II

1892, I

1894, III

1896, I and II

1897, II and IV

14 numbers
at 1 shilling

and

1912, I

(2 s. 6. d.)

June 13/27

F. M. Henrich

1909, IV (36) - 2/6. 8/6

ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY owns a considerable stock of old numbers of the *Numismatic Chronicle*, but from 1906 backward no complete set can be made up, as many of the quarterly parts are completely exhausted.

Before parting with the residues the Council thinks that Fellows of the Society should be given the opportunity of purchasing, at a very reduced price, any parts which they desire.

The following offer is therefore made : Any Fellow may purchase one or two copies of any of the following numbers :—

A. All numbers from 1841 to 1875 inclusive at *Sixpence each* except the following, which are exhausted : 1842 (IV), 1845 (I), 1861 (I), 1862 (III–IV), 1863 (I–II, III), 1864 (I, II, III, IV), 1865 (IV), 1868 (III, IV), 1869 (I, II, III, IV), 1874 (I) ; but the following, which include articles of special value, will be priced at 1s. instead of 6d. : 1868 (I), 1870 (I), 1871 (II), 1875 (IV).

B. All numbers from 1876 to 1900 inclusive at *One Shilling each* except the following, which are exhausted : 1876 (I), 1877 (III), 1878 (II, IV), 1879 (I, II, III), 1880 (I, II, III, IV), 1884 (I), 1887 (II), 1891 (IV) ; but the following will be priced at 2s. 6d. each and 5s. for double numbers : 1881 (III), Head's 'Boeotia', 1887 (I), Greenwell's 'Syracuse', and the following at the published price : 1889 (I–II), Evans' 'Tarentum', 1890 (IV), Evans' 'New Syracusan Engravers', 1891 (III–IV), Evans' 'Medallions'.

C. All numbers from 1901 to 1920 at 2s. 6d. each. Fellows of the Society may purchase the complete set 1892–1900 for 25s., and the incomplete set 1901, 1903, 1906–1920 for £5. No Fellow may take more than one file of either set.

Buyers in all cases must pay postage or carriage. This offer will remain open till June 25, 1927.

Orders and inquiries should be sent to Mr. J. ALLAN, British Museum, London, W.C. 1.

June 30, 1927

Mr. John Allan,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, England

My dear Allen:

Among your Gandhara or Ohind coins you have several fine examples of the earlier Spalapati coins. Some of these I know came from Cunningham. I have been trying to work out a sequence in these, but lack good examples of the earlier specimens. Could you dig out a few of your best specimens and make the casts?

These earlier specimens that I want show the horseman wearing a turban and his clothing pretty well modeled. There are, as far as I know, six with the long weird inscription. Cunningham's No. 7 is a perfect beauty. I am inclined to think that if we could find the earliest specimen, we would find a falcon in the rider's left hand. I think I have worked out the puzzling mark over the horse's head. It is not a symbol but the rider's hand touching a four pointed star or ornament. The engravers very shortly after lost sight of what the original engravers intended and made several confused strokes and symbols.

Also, could I have a cast of your best Khamarayaka coin that shows the symbol above the horse's head, so that it really looks like adl. And could I have a cast of the best Bhima in Cunningham's specimens.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HWFMB

Copy sent 5-20-29

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON, W.C.1.



9/7/27

Dear Pauline Wood,

Whitehead says and
he is almost right that
you mean of Azam & of
Burhanpur - another is
two words, *g. u. loy.*: The one
we have here has it *g. u. loy.*
but we have others

of each form. I hope
this is satisfactory.

We had a visit from
Henry Chapman the other
day & he kept us amused
with his anecdotes
- also from Puttag who
takes life a little more seriously.

Yours
Laurie

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON, W.C.1.



30/7/27

Dear Hauland Wood,

Many thanks for your
letters. I am sending the A. N. S.
The parts of the Numer-nter Charts
for which you ask except 17879.
Pl. IV which is now out of print.
The cost is 18/- + postage 2/6
= £1-0-4.

The Queen Prince Charlotte
piece is a card counter

Integer a hundred years ago was
used with the sense of unit.

- Thus one said the dollar is
the integer of currency of the U.S.

I cannot show the mint of
the Azan Shah but a very the
rub. & Whitehead. Could
you send me a flatter card
that might be easier to read.
I have not yet made out the
complet in the Persia coin
you sent me a year ago.

I hope to send you the casts
of Ghazni coins soon.
Yours
J. Allan

August 25, 1927

Mr. John Allan,
Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, W.C.1, England

Dear John Allan:

Under separate cover I am sending you plaster casts of that Azam Shah Muhr. You can show the casts to Whitehead and give ~~them~~ to him or keep them yourself. I am not quite convinced that it is Furhanpur. I tried to make it out as such. If after another shot at it, Whitehead thinks it is, well and good.

In the same package I am sending over some bull and horseman coins which you can add to the Museum collection, if you wish. You need not return them. There are on the Hassan two ways of writing Sri Hamria. One you will note apparently is only Sri Hami. The other is spaced as generally found on coins with this inscription. Also I am enclosing two coins of Altamah, which at a glance look like Hassan's coins. These latter are not common.

Henry Chapman and Guttag are both back in this country, and I have just seen them at the Convention. Needless to say, Henry tried to monopolize it. Guttag bought a lot of stuff at what I am inclined to think pretty high prices. Do not bother about the "Numismatic Chronicle" for 1879.

I do not know why I did not guess the word Integer on that counter. It might be synangmous to the word unit. We all slip up now and then. Don't forget when you send the casts to answer some of the questions in the same letter. I probably shortly will ask you for some more and certainly willfire some questions at you. So be prepared.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MB

12th Septembdr, 1928

Mr. John Allen,
British Museum,
London, England

Dear Mr. Allen:

I have just got back from a five weeks' vacation in the White Mountains and am gradually slipping into my winter's work.

Several of our members, I think, have been to England this summer and you undoubtedly have seen them. Most of them were collectors of ancients.

I am looking forward to seeing the fourth volume of the Calcutta Museum Catalogue. For some unknown reason, ours has not turned up.

I find I have a couple of duplicates of these tokens of Admiral William Sidney Smith: one in brass with the cross of Jerusalem on the back; the other is a lead one - which, by the way, is a cast and not a pattern from a piece that had been old and showed signs of wear. If the British Museum would like these for their English medal collection, I would be glad to donate them.

I think you owe me two or three letters. In the meantime, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Curator

13th Feb., 1929

Mr. John Allan,
British Museum,
London, England

Dear Mr, Allan:

I have just been reading over the
Chronicle received today. In case you do not know
it, Frank C. Higgins died December 10, 1928.

I trust you are happy and not as busy as you have been.

Very truly yours,

Curator



DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

8th May 1929.

Dear Howland Wood,

I think I have a few of your queries still
to answer.

From the drawing (Pl.I,6) of Thamas's no.7
I cannot see why it should not be Muhammad b. Sam. I cannot
however trace the coin; it probably has crumbled away like
many of our coins of that time which contain lead.

Please send
The enclosed rubbing is probably of Masud
the Ghaznawid. We have similar pieces of Masud and Modud. I
can send casts if you like.

We have no gold horseman coins of Muhammad
b. Sam. I shall see if Nelson Wright has a cast of the Delhi
one. I cannot trace the Amritapala mentioned by Brown.

We have no bull and horseman of Balban. The
latest here is Nasir al-Din Mahmud.

Yours sincerely,

22d May, 1929

Mr. John Allan,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum

Dear John Allan:

Right now we are in the throes of putting up a new addition to our building. When done, some time next year, we will have a place easily twice the size of the present building, occupying a space of 100 feet frontage and about 60 feet deep, with four floors in the new part and three in the old. The coin room will not be quite as large as I was hoping for, but it will have a vault of two floors about 50 feet deep. There will be another large exhibition room and two smaller special rooms for temporary exhibits. Nevell will have two large working rooms and a vault. There will be also several rooms for special collections or private collectors who wish to have their coins and work on them with the utmost security. We shall have some laboratories and photographic rooms, and I think for generations to come we will have enough room.

You had better begin to plan for you and Mr. Hill and Robinson, and any of the others, to come over and visit us, in a year or so.

very truly yours,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

7/6/29

Dear ~~Pauline~~ ^{Pauline} Wood

Many thanks in your letter.

I shall not write to you
want but do not know if

I can induce the, also you
want.

Some time ago you sent
me a cast of a gold Mughal
coin of Azan Shah. The

mut, Ihr hantur mitte
بر (بر) : he have one
(two) with the mit with
بر (بر) but we have two
a other one with the mit
in two corners like the
old one you have.

Yours
William



AE



January 20, 1930

John Allen, Esq.
Honary Secretary
Royal Numismatic Society
Depart. of Coins and Medals
British Museum, London, England

Dear Mr.Allen:

I have just read a newspaper item that states that in the little Island of Lundy, at the head of the Bristol Channel, they have a special issue of coins called Puffins and Half Puffins, on one side of which is the head of Martin Coles Harman. Are there such tokens issued and are they modern? If so, how can we obtain a set? The clipping also states that stamps of similar denominations are issued, which I very much doubt. However, if there are such private stamps, can they also be gotten?

With appreciation of your courtesy,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

Sept. 3, 1930

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum
London, W.C., England

Dear Allan:

The lot of casts came to hand the other day, for which many thanks. I hope Nelson Wright got some information out of my notes. I plug at them now and then, but for the past year due to the new building, I have not been able to do much of anything. Some day, if I live long enough, I may publish. Drop me a line to let me know how you are when the spirit moves you.

Again thanking you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

20/1/31

Dear Harold Good,

Many thanks for your
kind letter of sympathy letter,
which I am now free to
acknowledge. It took

the same time to appear
me success to Mr Hill

as the Trustees did not
do the whole thing at
once. Since I have
now been appointed
Keeper of Coins, a
post for which I suppose
I have a racial
qualification.

Yours
J. Allen

November 4, 1931.

Mr. John Allan
Keeper of the Coins
The British Museum
London.

My dear Allan:

I picked up the other day a dinar of the year 157. This date should remind you of Offa's coins. I am sending a cast of our specimen, as it to my mind presents a little nearer approach to what any coins that might have been struck by Offa should look like. Not having anything but a poor illustration of the coin with Offa Rex on it and the regular bungled dinars of 157 than is found in the illustrations that you wrote about and the other article by Calyon Britton, I have no really good means of comparison, but the style of writing looks nearer to the Offa Rex piece and the borders of dots look larger than on your year 157 piece and nearer like those on Offa's regular coins. I am therefore sending you a plaster cast for your records. The coin itself has a very smooth background, which is unlike the rough backgrounds of the regular issues of the Caliphs. The metal shows an alloy of silver and is a whiter or more lemon yellow color than the regular series.

I have been keeping more than busy and I imagine that you have as well. Drop me a line, when the spirit moves you.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator



DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

2nd December 1931.

Dear Howland Wood,

Many thanks for your letter and the
cast. I think the border of dots points to western
manufacture as do the other details to which you call
attention. I am sending you a cast of a similar coin *here*
(Catalogue No. 24), which strikes the eye at once as
being different from the others in our tray of al-
Mansur's dinars by its yellowish metal *and* smooth surface
and on examination shows inaccuracies in the engraving.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

J. Allan

May 19, 1932.

Mr. John Allan
Director of the Department of Coins and Medals
The British Museum
London, England.

Dear Mr. Allan:

I was thinking that several months ago I asked you if you could have photographs made showing different types of liris, especially any that may have come from Hormuz, any with Turkish inscriptions, possibly any unusual Persian ones, also any that you might know of that were made by the Portuguese in India or came from the neighborhood of Goa or Bombay. I do not suppose any have been discovered that have been made in the Maldive Islands. The curved ones from Ceylon I am not interested in. A while ago I received from the photographic department a print of some Roman coins that was sent over by mistake and which they later wrote me about, all of which makes me think that possibly you had given them some liris to photograph and they had mixed up the order.

We are plugging along in this country but conditions seem to be getting worse and worse. We have a double reason for this: the depression for one thing and this is also the year of the presidential election which always upsets things.

Very truly yours,

HE:JG

Curator

October 7, 1932.

John Allan, Esq.
British Museum
London, England.

Dear Allan:

We have recently had an inquiry concerning the why and the wherefore of model coins. You know, these little things, some of them enclosed in bronze frames and others in little metal boxes, some of which are stamped "Prince of Wales Model Coins". Can you tell me where and why these were made?

Mrs. Brett has recently got back from a pleasant and replete trip to Europe.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

October 3, 1933.

John Allan, Esq.
The British Museum
London, England.

Dear Mr. Allan:

I am enclosing herewith a facsimile in miniature of a medal recently deposited in our museum, commemorating the punching in the eye of Huey Long, the U. S. Senator from Louisiana, at the Sands Point Bath Club a little over a month ago. Huey Long is an unscrupulous sort of person who got into power in Louisiana, became Governor of the State and then was elected to the United States Senate. Many people are absolutely down on him. He holds his liquor badly and makes a fool of himself on all occasions. He disgraced himself very badly at the dinner at the Bath Club and got in a fracas in the toilet where he was knocked out.

Mr. Owen White wrote an open letter to the papers stating in his opinion a medal should be given by the American public to the "swatter" of Huey Long, little thinking that anything more would come of it. Subscriptions and orders came in to such an extent that he had to carry the thing through and a large gold medal was made as the subscriptions had to be used up. The committee that made the medal were then in a quandary what to do with the medal as the "swatter" still is unknown and it was deposited in our museum. Huey Long who calls himself "The Kingfish" is represented on the medal as a fish. As the incident occurred in the toilet you can dope out why the medal was made in the shape that it is. I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

W:JG

Curator



DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

14th October 1933.

Dear Howland Wood,

Many thanks for your letter of October 3 and the interesting historical memorial you enclose which we are glad to have - especially with your full account of its origin which will save some of our successors a lot of trouble.

I hope you are all flourishing and will some time be able to pay us a visit. We did not even have ^{Se}~~Ed~~dney Beatty this year, who I thought was now an annual visitor. His brother has announced his intention of becoming a British subject and has proclaimed his descent from the Scottish poet Beattie but as the latter's two sons died young and he led a singularly blameless life and I do not see how A.C.B. manages the pedigree.

Yours sincerely,

October 25, 1933.

John Allan, Esq.
The British Museum
London, W. C. England.

Dear John Allan:

Your letter just at hand and I am glad to hear from you. I have been hoping to get to Europe for some time but a growing family and other things that take money have kept me here. I think it would be an excellent idea if someone of the B. M. staff should come to this country. As you may know I have been corresponding quite a little with your under-study. He seems to be a bright intensive sort of person and I should judge has majored in Arabic at one of the universities. I am inclined to think you have a good man. If you don't mind, let me have some details about him as it is always more interesting to know a little more about a person you are writing to.

Gedney Beatty has been in a bad way for several years. He has been in a sanitorium for sometime, but recent reports show signs of improvement. His mind went back on him. I am much interested in your remarks about the descent of that family. Unfortunately many Americans cannot prove their ancestors in the old country as well as they would like as many that came over here, especially in the early days, promptly shook all connections with the old country and some wanted to forget their relations over there. Also in the old days none of them over here bothered with geneology.

Sincerely yours,

HW:JG

No. 1371

Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, W.C.1

Nov. 10th 1933

Sir,

I have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt
of *Three American and one Canadian coins*
viz. quarter dollar 1932 Philadelphia mint; one cent of Philadelphia
and one cent of Denver mint, both 1932; and a Canadian
cent of 1933

which you have been so good as to present to the
Trustees of the British Museum.

I am, *Sir,*

Your obedient Servant,

Allen

Keeper.

Harland Woodley
American Numismatic Society



DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

2/4/34.

Dear Howland Wood,

I am anxious to get a copy of the Darwin Medal illustrated in the Numismatist for February p. 115 but the paragraph gives no clue to the Committee which has issued ^{it}. Do you happen to know an address to which I can write for a copy.

Yours sincerely

Keeper of Coins.

Howland Wood, Esq.



DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

28th February 1934.

Dear Howland Wood,

Sampels Many thanks for your interesting
account of the *larins*. I must congratulate you on getting so
much out of such an unpromising looking lot.

Walker came here two years ago to fill the vacancy caused
by Hill's promotion. He is a graduate of Glasgow with honours
in ~~the~~ Semetic languages and has spent some years in Egypt so
that he is very well qualified for the work here to which he
has taken very kindly. ?

Yours sincerely,

J. Allan

April 12, 1934.

John Allan, Esq.
Department of Coins and Medals
British Museum,
London, W. C.

Dear Mr. Allan:

The Darwin medal as far as I know is still a prospect and not a reality. I think it is very much in the air - so much so that you might say in the stratosphere. A few months ago a pompous gentleman approached one of our members as to how they could interest people to finance such a medal and they had an idea that they could sell sufficient for \$15.00 each. Someone sent the sketch to the Numismatist where it was published. I have no further knowledge whether anything more has been done about getting out the medal but I have the two following names of the persons that would be responsible for it:

Mr. Sargent Child, (Ethnologist)
Darwin Memorial Expedition
145 E. 46th St.
New York City.

Darwin Memorial Expedition
Att. Mr. Wolfgang von Hagen, Director
W/S Golden State
Pier 19, San Francisco, California.

You might write to one or both of them. I was going to hold off until I heard more about it. If I do I will drop you a line.

Very truly yours,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

29/6/34

Dear Howland Wood,

I am returning you
these cards. We have
nothing to offer you in
exchange and I see no
hope of raising any money
to pay for them.

I hope you are all
flourishing.

Walker is on holiday.
He is pretty well with
the catalogue of early
Arab coins and has
raised a great amount of
material chiefly in the
way of early copper.

I am just printing a catalogue
of coins of ancient India. I
find there is little time
to settle down to anything.

Yours
J. Allan

October 1, 1934.

John Allan, Esq.
Dept. of Coins and Medals
The British Museum
London, England.

Dear Mr. Allan:

I am enclosing a manuscript that you possibly might use under miscellanea in the Numismatic Chronicle. If you can't, return it and I will put it into the Numismatist. As the pieces are English coins I think they should be published in England. The false attribution has been going for over fifty years and the true account appeared about fifty years ago. The false attribution has persisted and the correct dope, as far as I can learn, has been unnoticed for exactly fifty years. You probably have some of these pieces and likely as not have placed them under Ionian Islands.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,



LONDON, W.C.1.

12/10/34

Dear Harold Ward,

Many thanks for your
letter & the literary notes
on the coins of the Ionian
Islands. which are useful
& Part IV of the Monies
- Part III has just gone to
press. We have specimens

under Haiti and the
were ~~by~~ bought with a miscellaneous
lot of European coins including
a number of Turkish.

I am sorry to hear that
our colleague Brooke died
yesterday after a long
illness. He will be a
great loss to us.

Hope you are all well
Yours
J. Allan

October 23, 1934.

John Allan, Esq.
Department of Coins and Medals
The British Museum
London, England.

Dear Allan:

Your letter just at hand and I am glad to know the notes on the Ionian Islands coins were new to you. It is an interesting fact that although published fifty years ago it seemed to have attracted no attention. I saw Lambros' article about fifteen years ago and made a mental note of it. From that time until about a month ago I could not find the pamphlet, when all of a sudden it appeared.

I am most sorry to learn of Brocke's death. I can appreciate how he will be very decidedly missed.

Very truly yours,

HJG

Curator

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON, W.C.1.

17th June 1937.



Dear Howland Wood,

Walker is away

till next week. I am sending you

a cast of the silver 25c North

Borneo 1929 the only one we have.

No 166 in Messrs. Glendining's sale

is a religious piece of some kind,

made I should say in Hyderabad, and

not is quite modern as the inscription

shows.

Yours sincerely,

Allen

July 30, 1937

Mr. John Walker,
Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, England

Dear Mr. Walker:

I hate to bother you, especially during this hot weather, but can you tell me if the copper coins issued by Husein at Mecca were all alike in design? I have the one piastre piece and note that there were halves, quarters and eighth piastres but have not seen the smaller pieces. If the design was different on the smaller ones, could you give me rubbings of them?

I see in the last Statesmen's Year Book that in 1936 Ibn Sa'ud reduced the silver to the size of the Indian rupee. If any coins of this reduced standard have been issued, could you give me a description or rubbings of them? You do not have to bother with plaster casts.

We have a number of the recent commemorative coins in duplicate. If the B.M. has not the following, we would be glad to present you with examples:

Lafayette dollar, 1900
Long Island Tercentenary half dollar, 1936
Daniel Boone B-Centennial half dollar, 1937 (Philadelphia Mint)
Albany, N. Y. half dollar, 1936
Delaware Tercentenary, 1936
Roanoke Island colonization (Virginia Dare), 1937

What do you consider the status of the four gold pieces in the New Coronation set, coins of the realm or shall we say souvenirs? To begin with, the edges are not reeded. Also the 5 pound piece is not a 5 pound piece but roughly an 8 pound piece and so on down the line. To be consistent with the present price of gold, I think they should have made them in reduced weights, as Italy and other countries have done.

- 2 -

Mr. John Walker

July 30, 1937

Have you noticed there is no indication of the Order of the Garter on any of the silver coins. I know it was dropped off in the last issues of George V and I was wondering if there was any significance or reason for so doing.

Am I right in assuming that the little silver three pence piece has not been issued for circulation? Or are they holding this in reserve in case the new alloy three pence piece proves unpopular. By the way, how is this new piece being received?

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks



DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON, W.C.

11th August, 1937.

Dear Howland Wood,

Walker is away but I think I can answer most of your queries.

We have the half and quarter but not the eighth piastre of Husein of Mecca. I am sending you casts of them.

We have not yet seen the new rupee of 1936 of Ibn Sa'ud but I will send you a description of it when we see one.

We have none of the six commemorative coins you mention, and shall be very grateful if you can give us them.

The gold pieces in the Coronation sets are purely souvenirs. The Mint authorities were much worried about various points which arose and finally decided to keep to the tradition of the £5, £2, etc. pieces and to issue them without milled edges to show they were not actual coins. The whole thing is illogical of course, but the objection to issuing 100/- and 20/- pieces was that we have ^{+ of present value of gold} no such gold coins at the present date.

The silver threepenny piece is still ^{issued} ~~current~~ for circulation. It has always been popular in the North of England and in Scotland. It

/is

Howland Wood, Esq.

is in London and the South that the silver threepenny piece has not been popular, and the Mint brought out this new larger nickel piece in response to the request of ^{the big} transport ^{companies} and others who have to handle a large amount of small change, in order to reduce the enormous amount of ^{copper} ~~coin~~ they have to carry. Although over twenty million have been issued one does not find many in circulation, but most people have one or two in their pockets which they are keeping as souvenirs. In time they will of course be quite common, but the present issues ^{so far have been} seem to be absorbed as souvenirs.

The Darfur coins were issued down to 1916. Walker's note on them in the Sudan Notes and Queries should be published shortly, and I will see that he sends you a copy.

Yours sincerely,

J. Allan

August 19, 1937

John Allen, Esq.
Dept. of Coins and Medals,
the British Museum,
London, England

Dear Mr. Allen:

Your letter of the 11th just at hand and many thanks for the information conveyed. As you probably have found, it is the hardest work keeping up with the current coins, especially Asiatic ones. I am working up a catalogue of 20th Century coins. If such a thing is not started pretty soon, I am afraid that it would never be done, as over one-third of a century has already gone by.

Your information concerning the Coronation gold pieces confirms my findings.

I am herewith enclosing the six commemorative coins I mentioned in my last letter, which please accept as a gift from our Society. These we happen to have in duplicate.

For your information these commemorative coins have become a regular racket and Congress is beginning to realize it and is taking steps to stop the issue. It seems that almost any organization or town having an anniversary could get a bill through Congress authorizing the striking of these pieces; the committee paying the expenses of the design, dies, etc., the mint striking them and turning them over the committee at 50¢ plus any extra costs, the committing selling them for not less than \$1.00 and sometimes for \$2.00 or \$3.00.

Coin collectors fell for this and in fact several thousands have started in to collect just these coins only, but then they began to have the coins made from all three mints and having them made with new dates, year after year, a big kick arose. Also, it was pointed out to Congress that these commemorative coins were struck for all sorts of minor occasions that nobody ever heard of, so that probably from now on these pieces will be struck only for anniversaries of states, international expositions, or things of a really national character.

Please remember me to Mr. Walker and believe me,

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks
encl.

Nov. 30, 1937

John Allan, Esq.,
Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, England

Dear Mr. Allan:

The Chronicle just at hand and as it seems to me to be overburdened with ancient coins, I was wondering if you would entertain the idea of an article on Oriental coins. Dr. George C. Miles and I have been preparing an article on a hoard of Ayyoob struck in the Yemen numbering about 78 varieties, nearly all of which are absolutely unpublished and as far as I know, unknown. 8 are of En Nasir Ayyoob, 2 of which you list on page 338 in Additions I, and one is listed in the Paris catalogue. 56 of the coins are of El Mes'ood and 4 of a brother El Adil Seif Eddin, ranging from 611 to 628 when the Rasulids came in, with the mints of San'a, Ta'iz, Zabid, Aden and Raydah.

Dr. Miles has handled the history matter and references extremely well and we can illustrate the coins as extensively as you wish. We could also include a map if wanted.

We feel that the article would not have sufficient carrying power if we published it in our monographs as there is no interest in Oriental coins to speak of over here, but feel that if the Chronicle would publish it, that would be the best place.

It may interest you to know that about 30,000 coins have been presented to us this year. I do not know when I can ever digest all of these.

Very truly yours,

Curator

hw s